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SEGA

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG™

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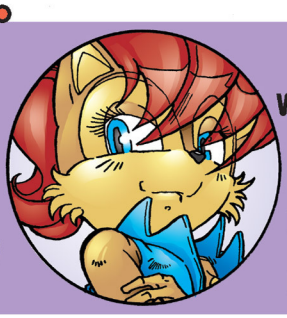
NOW WITH MORE FREEDOM FIGHTING GOODNESS!

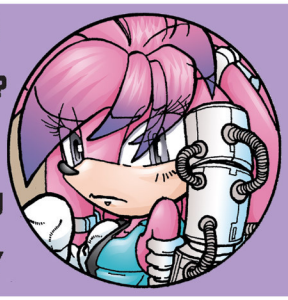
HEDGEHOG DATING TIPS 101: MINA THE MONGOOSE TAKES NOTES IN "SHE'S GOTTA HAVE HIM"

PLUS:

WHAT IS "THE ROYAL SIGNET?" EXACTLY, AND WHAT IMPRESSION DID IT MAKE ON PRINCESS SALLY?



"THOSE WERE THE DAYS," WEREN'T THEY? WALK DOWN ECHIDNA MEMORY LANE JULIE-SU STYLE AND FIND OUT WHY



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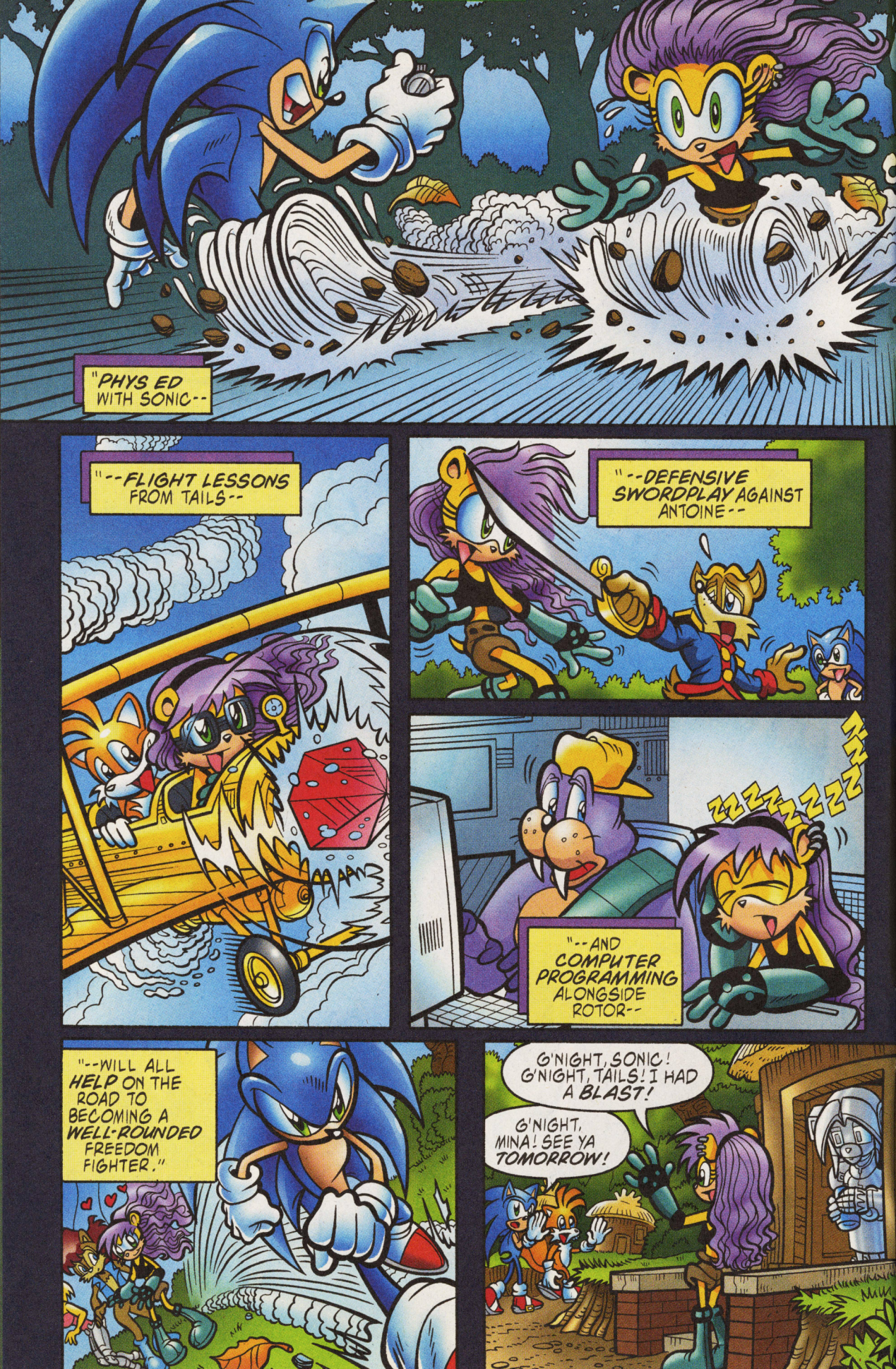
AXER Ctl
JANSEN

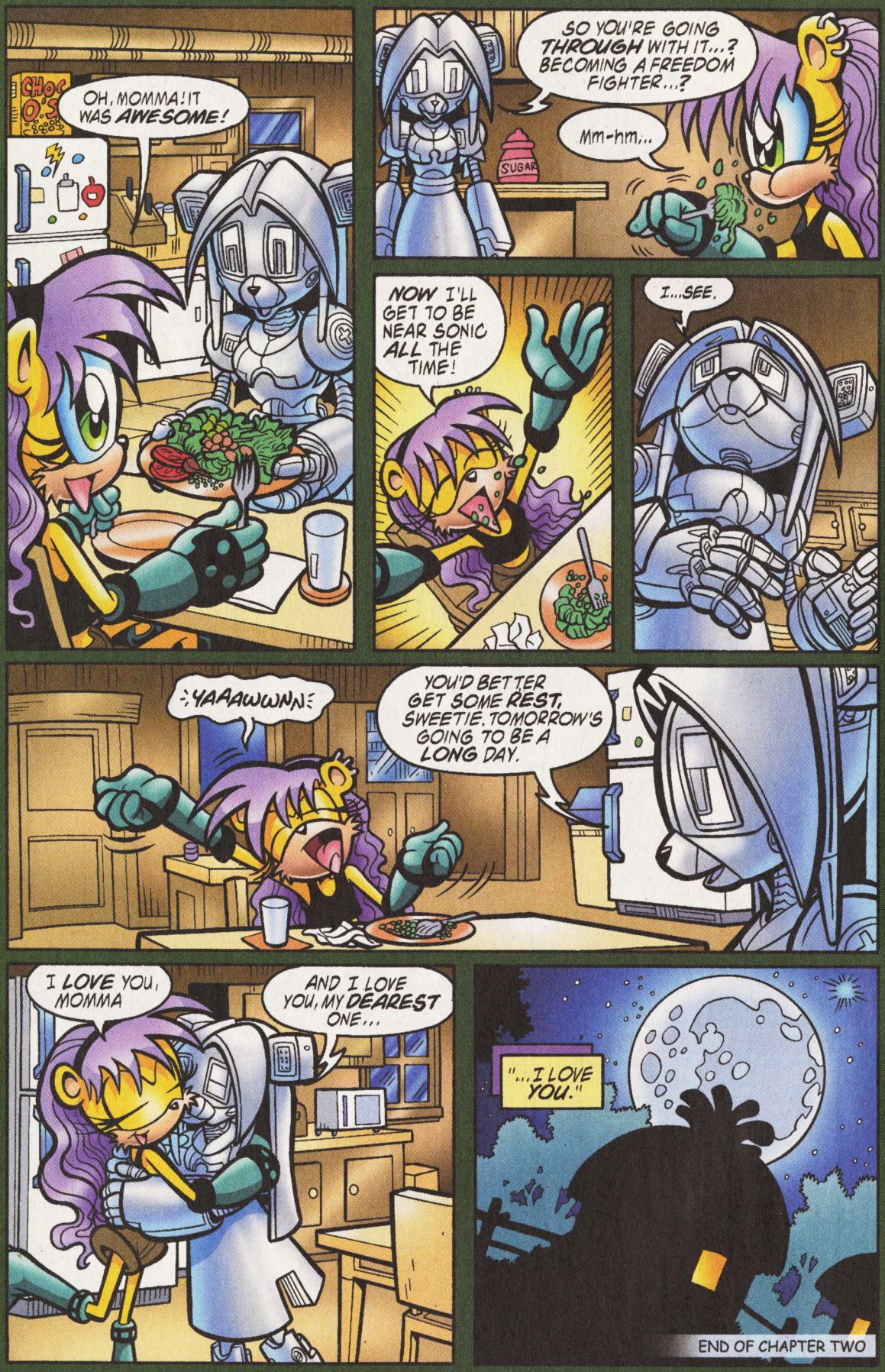
I LOVE
SONIC
THE HEDGEHOG
SO MUCH!
SHE'S GOTTA HAVE HIM
CHAPTER 1
story Karl Bollers
penciler Steven Butler
inker Andrew Pepoy
letterer Jeff Powell
colorist Jensen
editor J.F. Gabrie
managing editor Victor Gorelick
editor in chief Richard Goldwater
HE'S HIP! HAPPENING! AND OH-SO COOL!
"WE'D BE THE IDEAL COUPLE!"

IF ONLY I COULD GET HIM TO--
HELLO, MINA!
OH! HI, MOMMA!
MOMMA...? HOW DID YOU GET DAD TO NOTICE YOU?
IT HAPPENED DURING THE WAR SWEETIE, BEFORE YOU WERE BORN...
I WAS BEING CHASED THROUGH THE FOREST BY ENEMY SOLDIERS...
LET'S JUST SAY I GOT YOUR FATHER'S ATTENTION.
THAT'S IT!

I'LL GET SONIC'S ATTENTION! AND I KNOW JUST HOW TO DO IT!
LA! LA! LAAA!
SOON...
HI, SONIC...
?
...WHAT'S SHAKIN'?
HEY, MINA, YOU LOOK--
DIT DIT DIT
ROBOTNIK'S UP TO NO GOOD! LET'S JUICE!
END OF CHAPTER ONE

SHE'S GOTTA HAVE HIM
CHAPTER 2
SAY, I WAS THINKING...WOULDN'T IT BE NEAT IF I WERE A FREEDOM FIGHTER LIKE YOU GUYS?
YOU?
HOLD ON, SONIC...
WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE TEAM, MINA?
WELL... I'VE GOT LOTS OF NATURAL BORN MONGOOSE SPEED TO SPARE!
THEN LET'S BEGIN TRAINING!

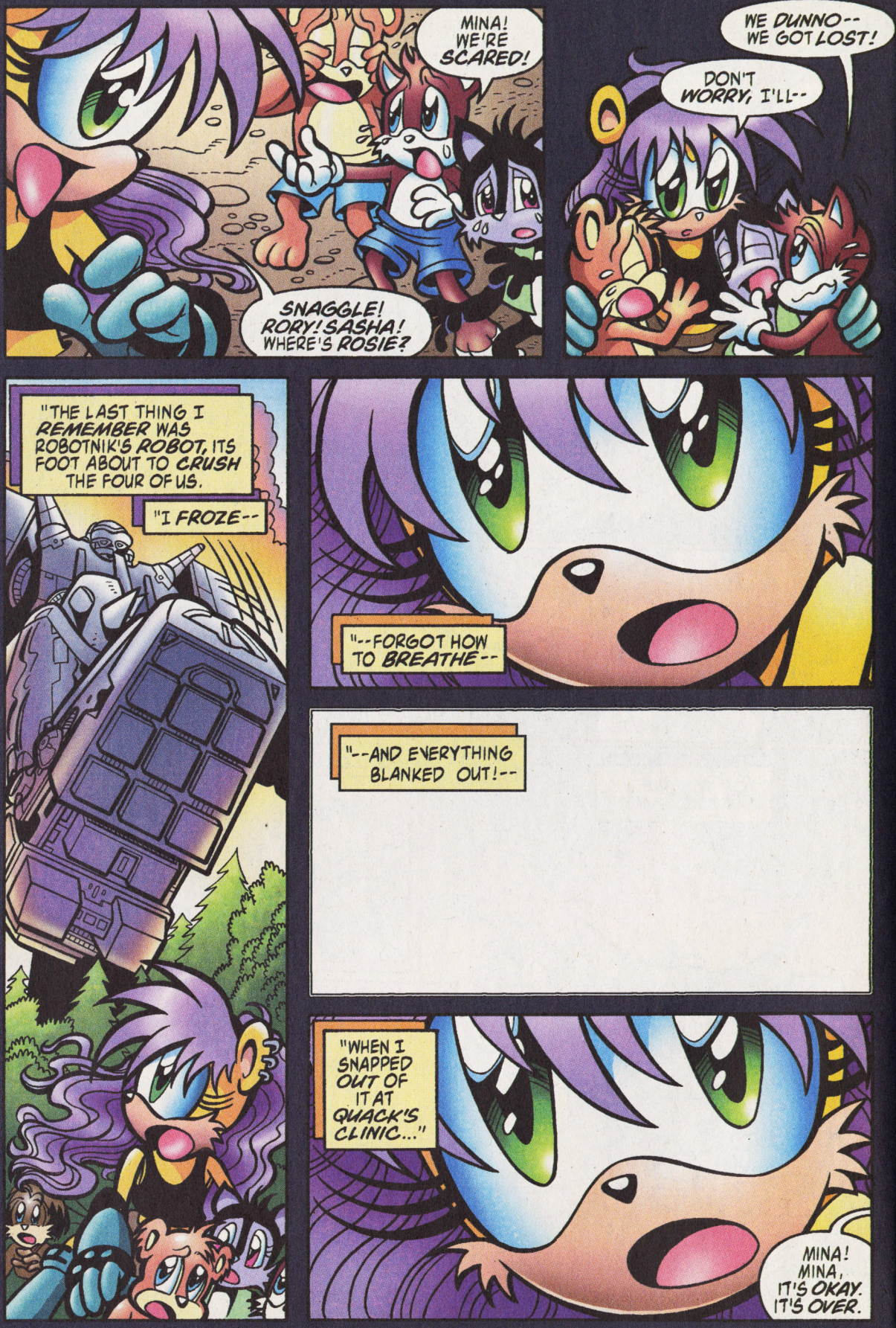

"PHYS ED WITH SONIC--
"--FLIGHT LESSONS FROM TAILS--
"--DEFENSIVE SWORDPLAY AGAINST ANTOINE--
"--AND COMPUTER PROGRAMMING ALONGSIDE ROTOR--
ZZZZZZZZ
"--WILL ALL HELP ON THE ROAD TO BECOMING A WELL-ROUNDED FREEDOM FIGHTER."
G'NIGHT, SONIC! G'NIGHT, TAILS! I HAD A BLAST!
G'NIGHT, MINA! SEE YA TOMORROW!

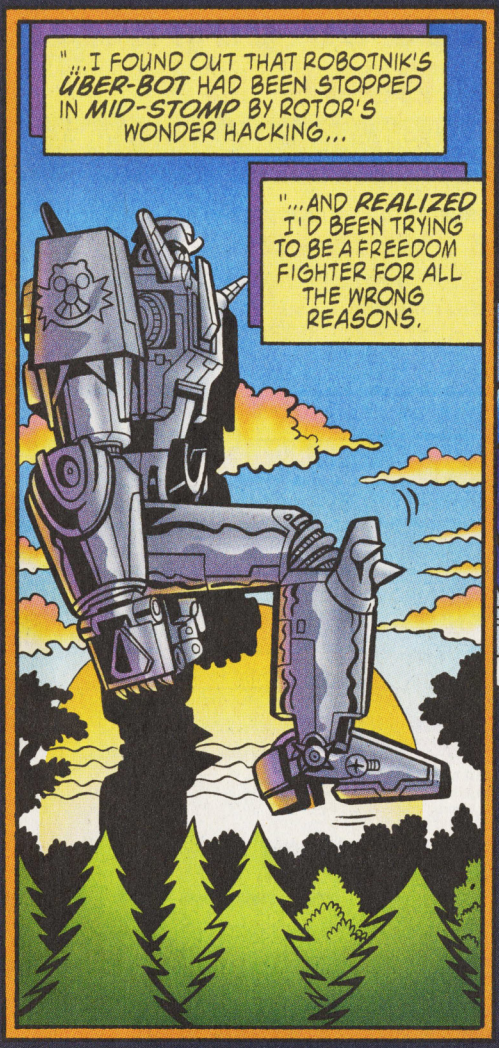

CHOC O's
OH, MOMMA! IT WAS AWESOME!
SO YOU'RE GOING THROUGH WITH IT...? BECOMING A FREEDOM FIGHTER...?
Mm-hm...
SUGAR
NOW I'LL GET TO BE NEAR SONIC ALL THE TIME!
I...SEE.
:YAAAWWNN:
YOU'D BETTER GET SOME REST, SWEETIE. TOMORROW'S GOING TO BE A LONG DAY.
I LOVE YOU, MOMMA
AND I LOVE YOU, MY DEAREST ONE...
"...I LOVE YOU."
END OF CHAPTER TWO

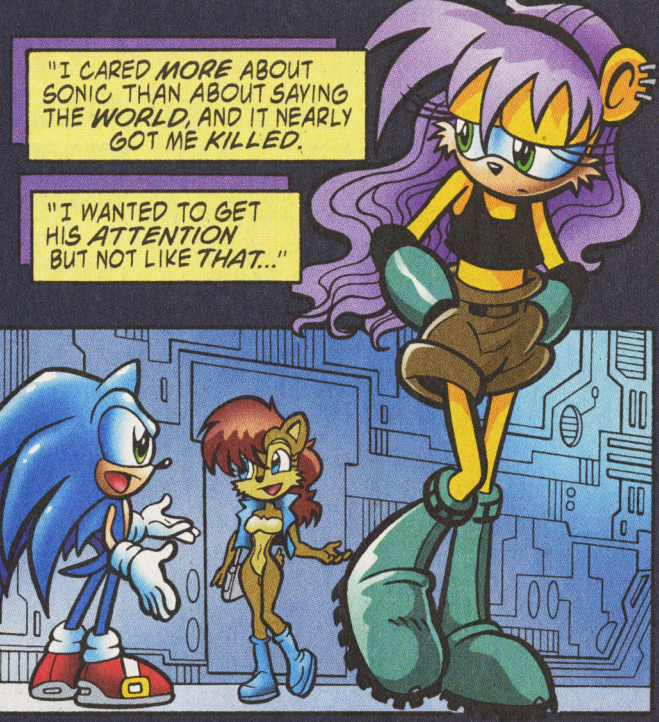
LAST ONE TO THE TRAINING COMPOUND IS A ROTTEN EGG!
MAY I HAVE A WORD WITH YOU, YOUNG HEDGEHOG?
SURE THING MRS. MONGOOSE!
I'M GONNA BEAT YOU!
SHE'S GOTTA HAVE HIM
CHAPTER 3
I'M SURE YOU KNOW HOW MUCH MY DAUGHTER ADMIRES AND LOOKS UP TO YOU...
YEP!
...BUT I DON'T KNOW IF SHE UNDERSTANDS HOW DANGEROUS FREEDOM FIGHTING CAN BE.
DON'T WORRY, MA'AM. I'LL--

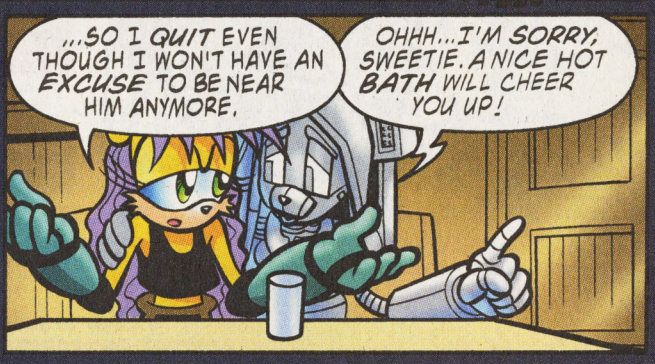
THOOM
--BE RIGHT BACK!
THE GROUND IS SHAKING EVERY FEW SECONDS...
THOOM
THOOM
THOOM
...BUT THIS IS NO EARTHQUAKE!
WHAT IS IT?
OH BOY.
THOOM THOOM
THOOM THOOM
THOOM
THOOM

HURRY, FREEDOM FIGHTERS!
YOU HEARD THE LADY--LET'S DO IT TO IT!
EVERYTHING'S HAPPENING SO FAST--DON'T KNOW HOW TO HELP--
"--BUT I'VE GOTTA DO SOMETHING--
--IT'S IN MY BLOOD!
MINA! SWEETIE, WAIT!
"OH NO! SHE CAN'T HEAR ME!"
KRRRKLLL!
SH-KOW
THIS IS--

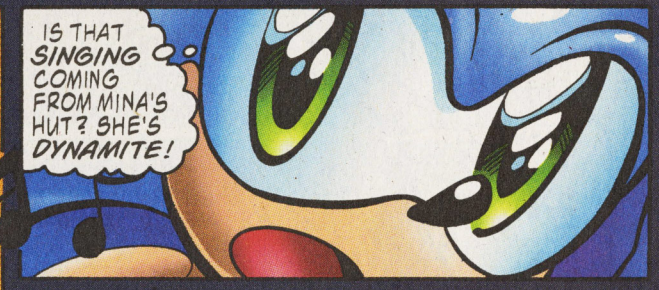

MINA! WE'RE SCARED!
SNAGGLE! RORY! SASHA! WHERE'S ROSIE?
WE DUNNO-- WE GOT LOST!
DON'T WORRY, I'LL--
"THE LAST THING I REMEMBER WAS ROBOTNIK'S ROBOT, ITS FOOT ABOUT TO CRUSH THE FOUR OF US.
"I FROZE--
"--FORGOT HOW TO BREATHE--
"--AND EVERYTHING BLANKED OUT!--
"WHEN I SNAPPED OUT OF IT AT QUACK'S CLINIC..."
MINA! MINA, IT'S OKAY. IT'S OVER.

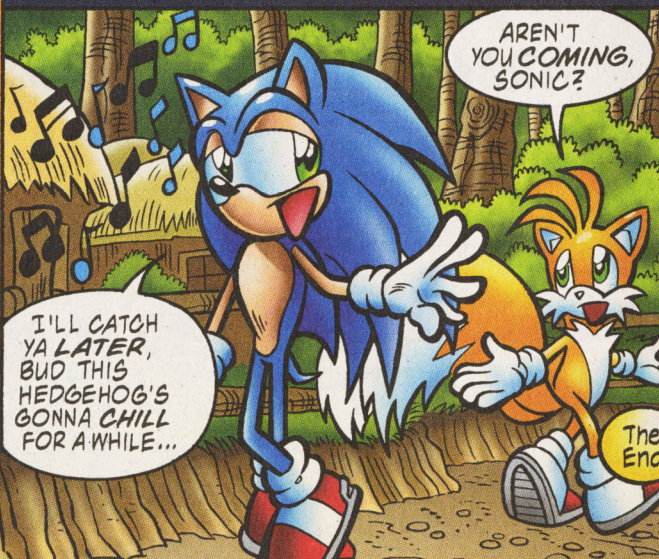

"...I FOUND OUT THAT ROBOTNIK'S ÜBER-BOT HAD BEEN STOPPED IN MID-STOMP BY ROTOR'S WONDER HACKING...
"...AND REALIZED I'D BEEN TRYING TO BE A FREEDOM FIGHTER FOR ALL THE WRONG REASONS.

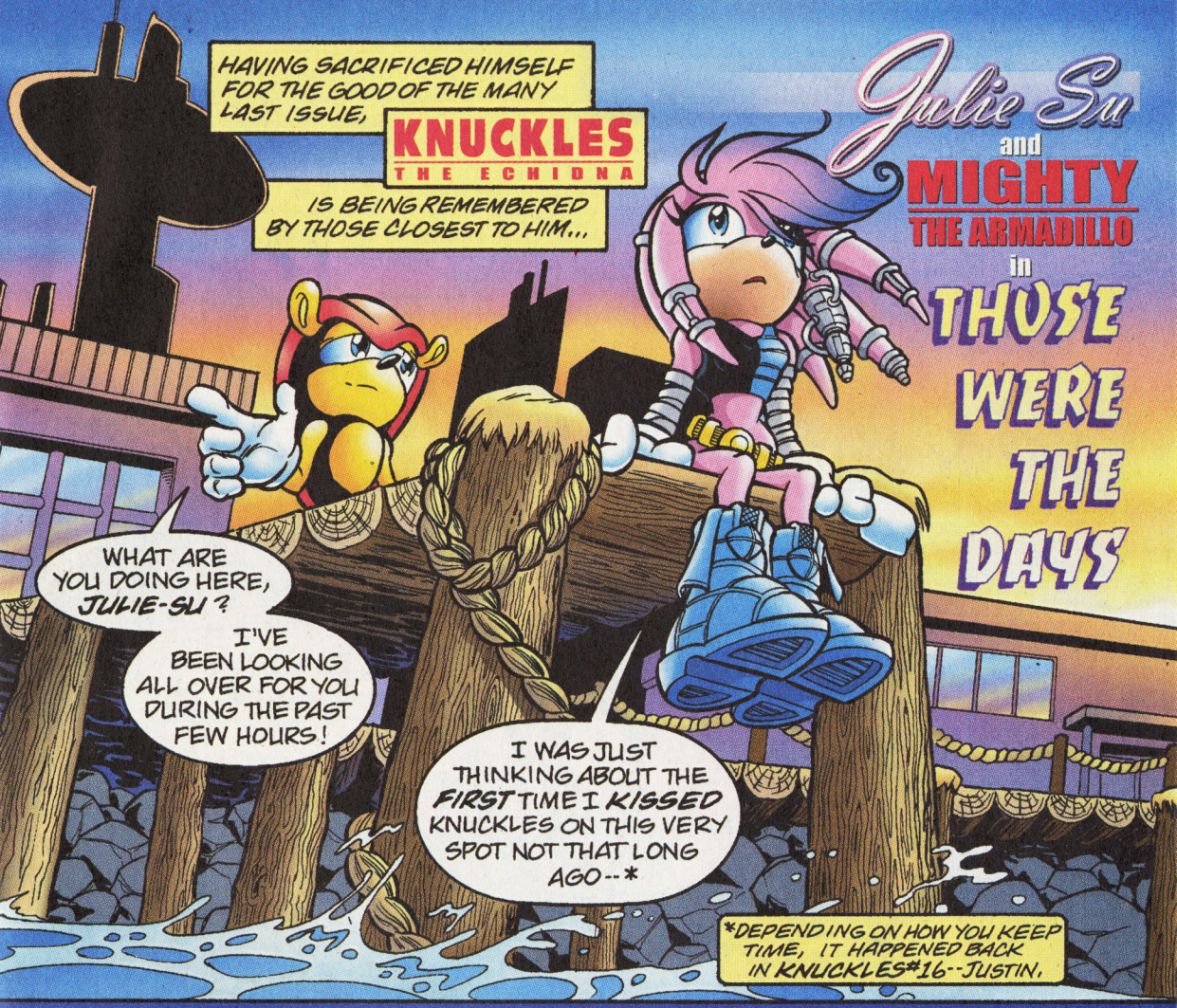

"I CARED MORE ABOUT SONIC THAN ABOUT SAVING THE WORLD, AND IT NEARLY GOT ME KILLED.
"I WANTED TO GET HIS ATTENTION BUT NOT LIKE THAT..."


...SO I QUIT EVEN THOUGH I WON'T HAVE AN EXCUSE TO BE NEAR HIM ANYMORE.
OHHH...I'M SORRY, SWEETIE. A NICE HOT BATH WILL CHEER YOU UP!

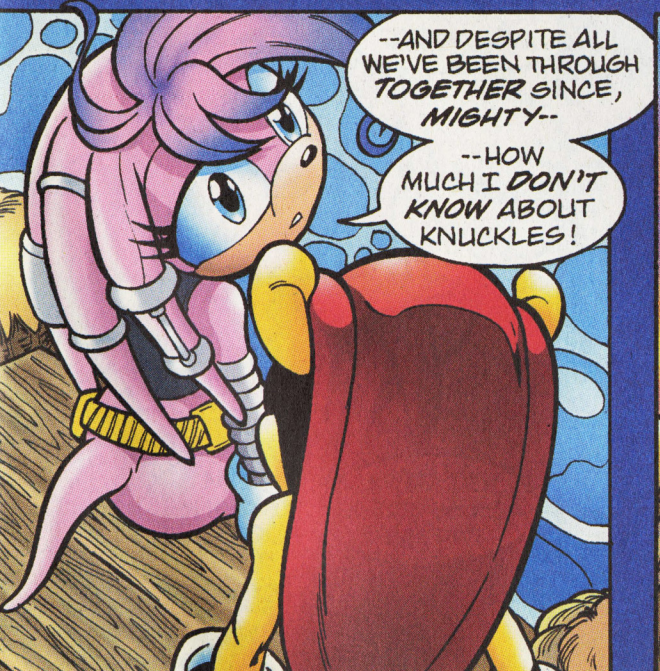
I'M SURE GONNA MISS HAVING MINA AROUND.
FREEDOM FIGHTING ISN'T FOR EVERYBODY, TAILS.
MAYBE SHE'LL FIND SOMETHING ELSE SHE--

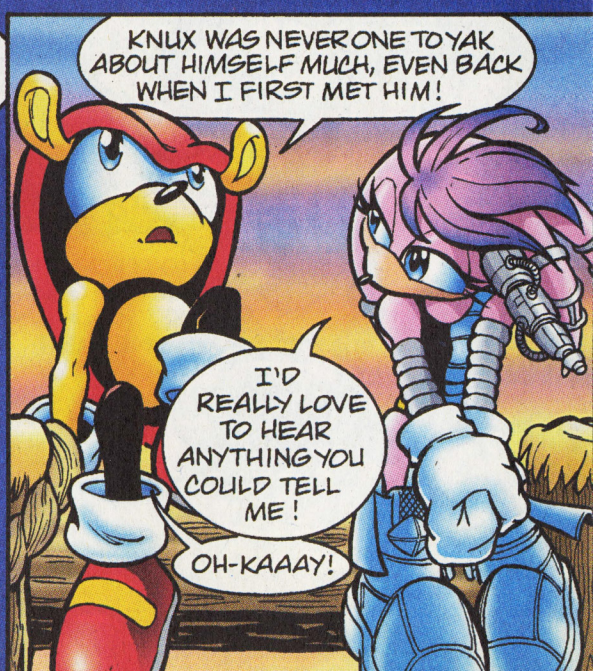

IS THAT SINGING COMING FROM MINA'S HUT? SHE'S DYNAMITE!

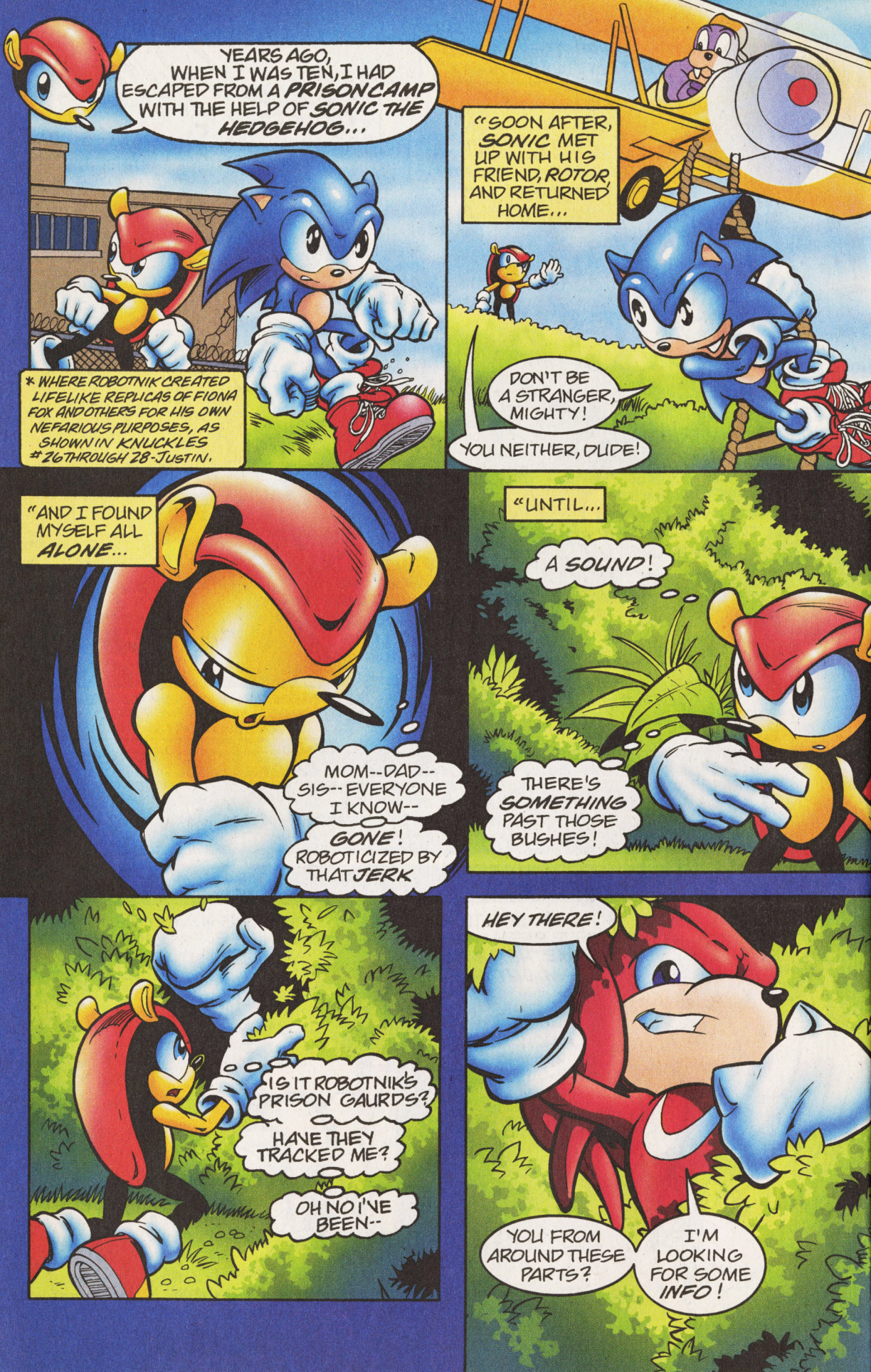

AREN'T YOU COMING, SONIC?
I'LL CATCH YA LATER, BUD THIS HEDGEHOG'S GONNA CHILL FOR A WHILE...
The End

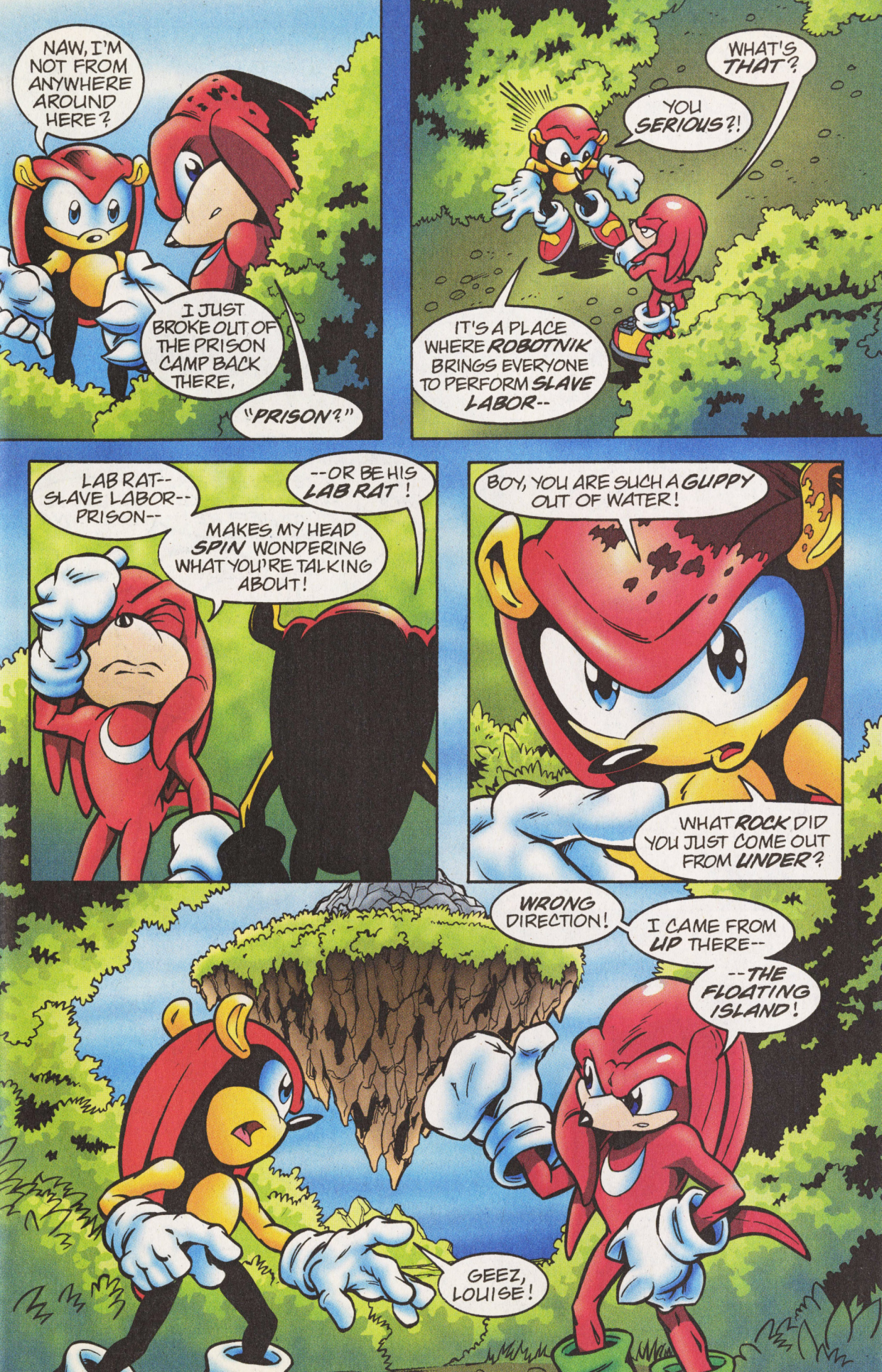

HAVING SACRIFICED HIMSELF FOR THE GOOD OF THE MANY LAST ISSUE,
KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA
IS BEING REMEMBERED BY THOSE CLOSEST TO HIM...
Julie Su
and
MIGHTY THE ARMADILLO
in
THOSE WERE THE DAYS
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, JULIE-SU?
I'VE BEEN LOOKING ALL OVER FOR YOU DURING THE PAST FEW HOURS!
I WAS JUST THINKING ABOUT THE FIRST TIME I KISSED KNUCKLES ON THIS VERY SPOT NOT THAT LONG AGO--*
*DEPENDING ON HOW YOU KEEP TIME, IT HAPPENED BACK IN KNUCKLES#16--JUSTIN.

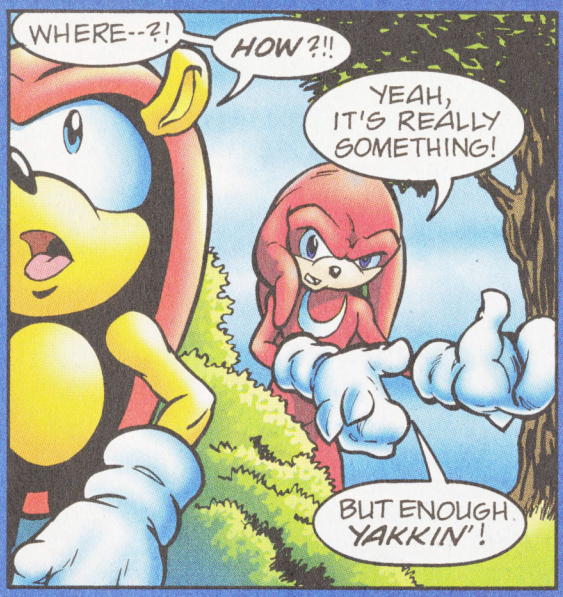
WITH THE USUAL GANG--
KEN PENDERS-SCRIPT & INKS DAWN BEST-PENCILS VICKIE WILLIAMS-LETTERS
JENSEN-COLORIST JUSTIN GABRIE-EDITOR
--REMINISCING ABOUT EVERYONE'S FAVORITE ECHIDNA!

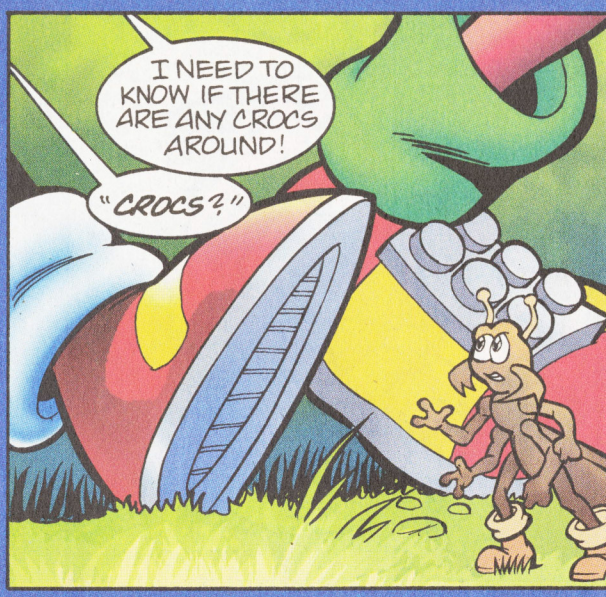



KNUX WAS NEVER ONE TO YAK ABOUT HIMSELF MUCH, EVEN BACK WHEN I FIRST MET HIM!
I'D REALLY LOVE TO HEAR ANYTHING YOU COULD TELL ME!
OH-KAAAY!

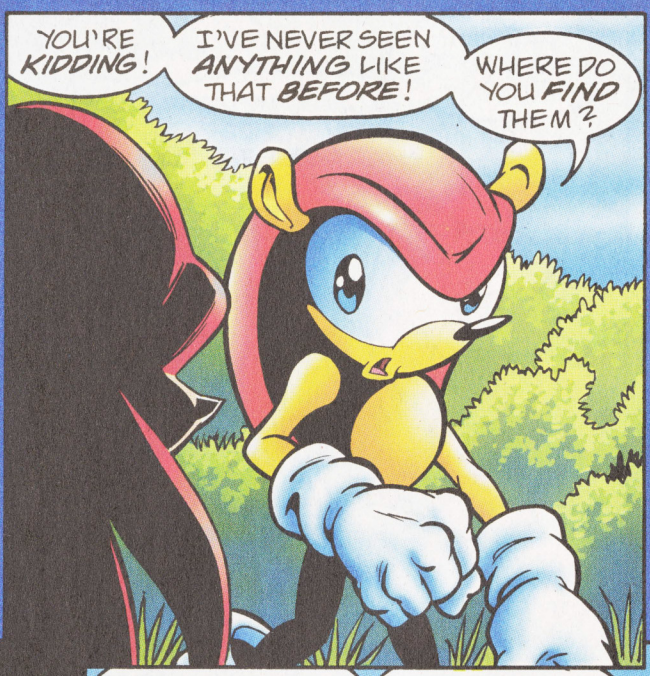

YEARS AGO, WHEN I WAS TEN, I HAD ESCAPED FROM A PRISON CAMP WITH THE HELP OF SONIC THE HEDGEHOG...
* WHERE ROBOTNIK CREATED LIFELIKE REPLICAS OF FIONA FOX AND OTHERS FOR HIS OWN NEFARIOUS PURPOSES, AS SHOWN IN KNUCKLES #26 THROUGH 28 - JUSTIN.
"SOON AFTER, SONIC MET UP WITH HIS FRIEND, ROTOR, AND RETURNED HOME...
DON'T BE A STRANGER, MIGHTY!
YOU NEITHER, DUDE!
"AND I FOUND MYSELF ALL ALONE...
MOM--DAD--SIS--EVERYONE I KNOW--
GONE! ROBOTICIZED BY THAT JERK
"UNTIL...
A SOUND!
THERE'S SOMETHING PAST THOSE BUSHES!
IS IT ROBOTNIK'S PRISON GAURDS?
HAVE THEY TRACKED ME?
OH NO I'VE BEEN--
HEY THERE!
YOU FROM AROUND THESE PARTS?
I'M LOOKING FOR SOME INFO!


NAW, I'M NOT FROM ANYWHERE AROUND HERE?
I JUST BROKE OUT OF THE PRISON CAMP BACK THERE.
"PRISON?"
WHAT'S THAT?
YOU SERIOUS?!
IT'S A PLACE WHERE ROBOTNIK BRINGS EVERYONE TO PERFORM SLAVE LABOR--
LAB RAT-- SLAVE LABOR-- PRISON--
MAKES MY HEAD SPIN WONDERING WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!
--OR BE HIS LAB RAT!
BOY, YOU ARE SUCH A GUPPY OUT OF WATER!
WHAT ROCK DID YOU JUST COME OUT FROM UNDER?
WRONG DIRECTION!
I CAME FROM UP THERE--
--THE FLOATING ISLAND!
GEEZ, LOUISE!

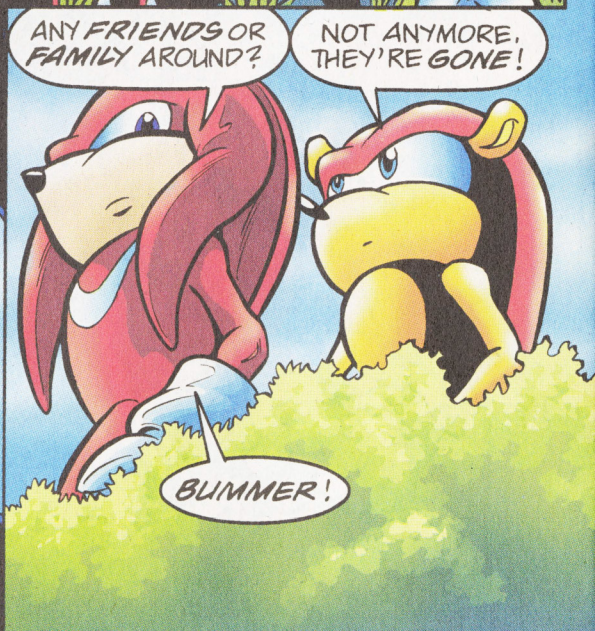

WHERE--?!
HOW?!!
YEAH, IT'S REALLY SOMETHING!
BUT ENOUGH YAKKIN'!


I NEED TO KNOW IF THERE ARE ANY CROCS AROUND!
"CROCS?"

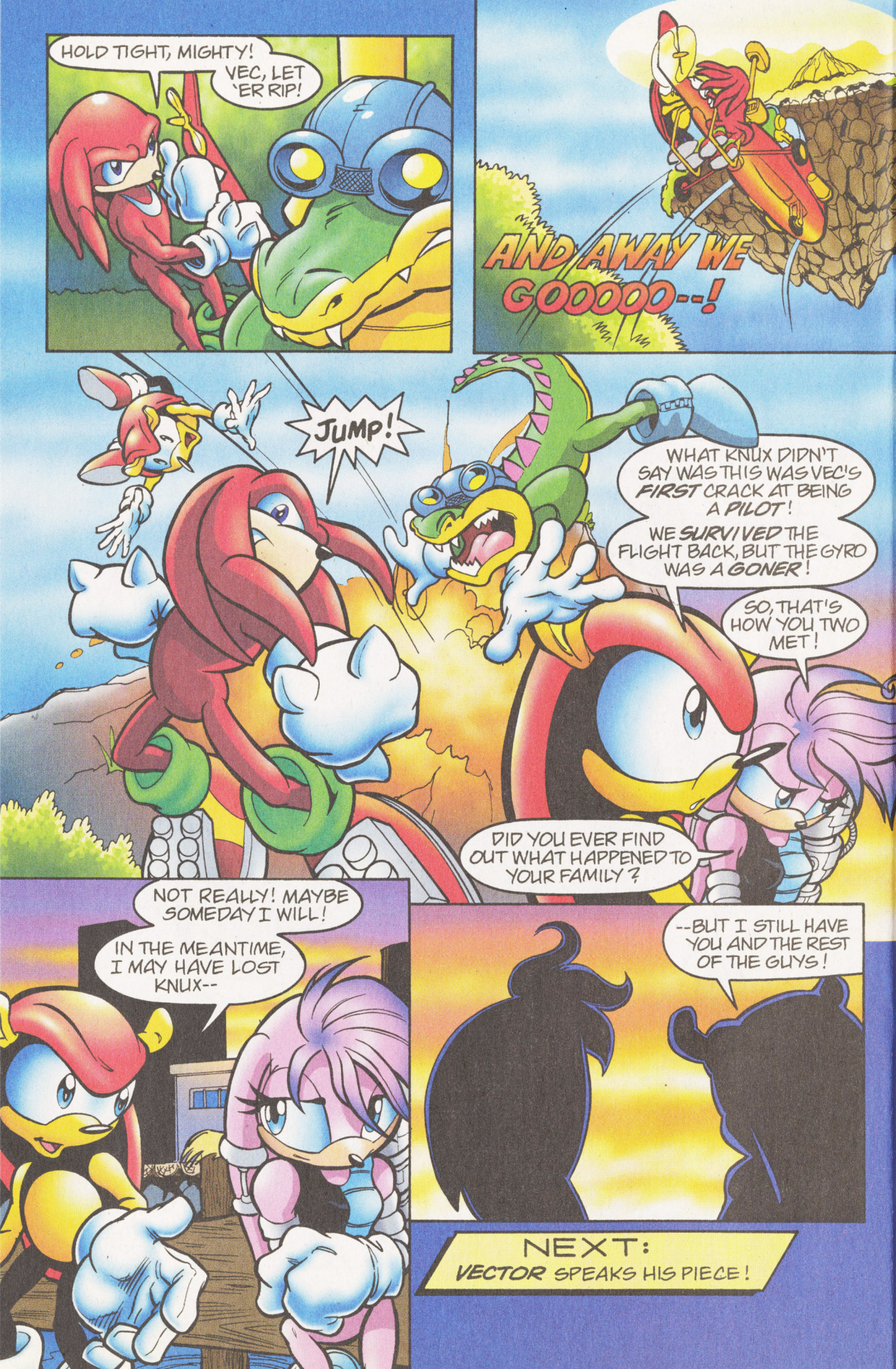
YEAH!
YOU KNOW-- CROCODILES!
THEY HAVE BIG JAWS AND LOVE TO SWING!


YOU'RE KIDDING!
I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THAT BEFORE!
WHERE DO YOU FIND THEM?

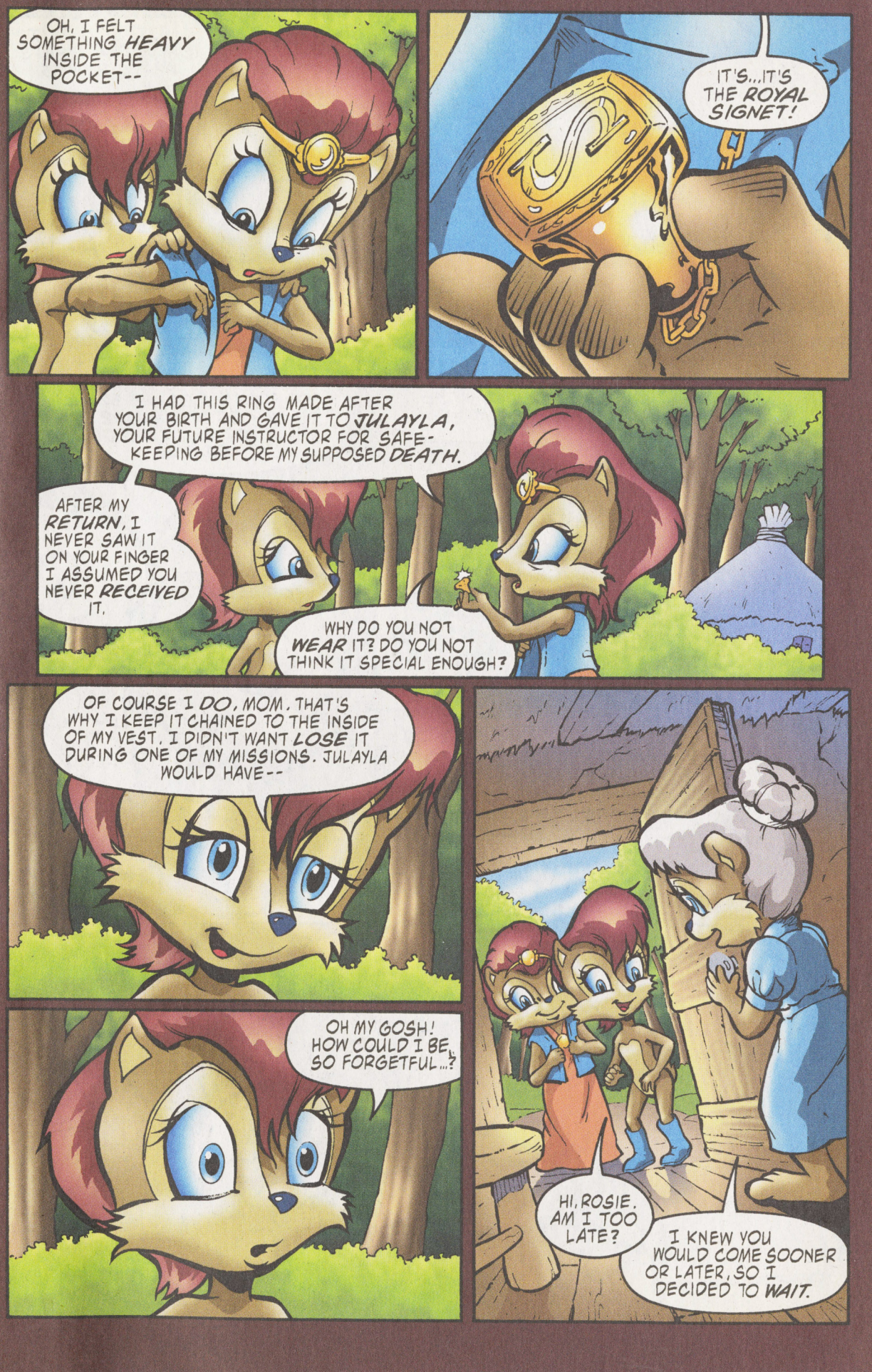
THAT'S WHAT I WANNA KNOW!
SOME HELP YOU ARE!
SORRY! I'VE GOT A LOT ON MY MIND!


ANY FRIENDS OR FAMILY AROUND?
NOT ANYMORE, THEY'RE GONE!
BUMMER!

I KNOW HOW THAT IS!
I LOST MY DAD, TOO!
YOU CAN HANG OUT WITH ME, IF YOU WANT!
YOU PLANNING ON STICKING AROUND?
CAN'T!
I HAVE TO GET BACK!
HOW? YOU FLY?
I SURE CAN'T!
ME EITHER!
BUT WAIT'LL YOU GET A LOAD OF THIS!
HOLEEEE--!!!
READY TO ROCK 'N' ROLL, VEC?
WE'RE GOOD TO GO ON YOUR SAY-SO--
SO GIVE THE WORD AND WE'RE OFF LIKE A BIRD!

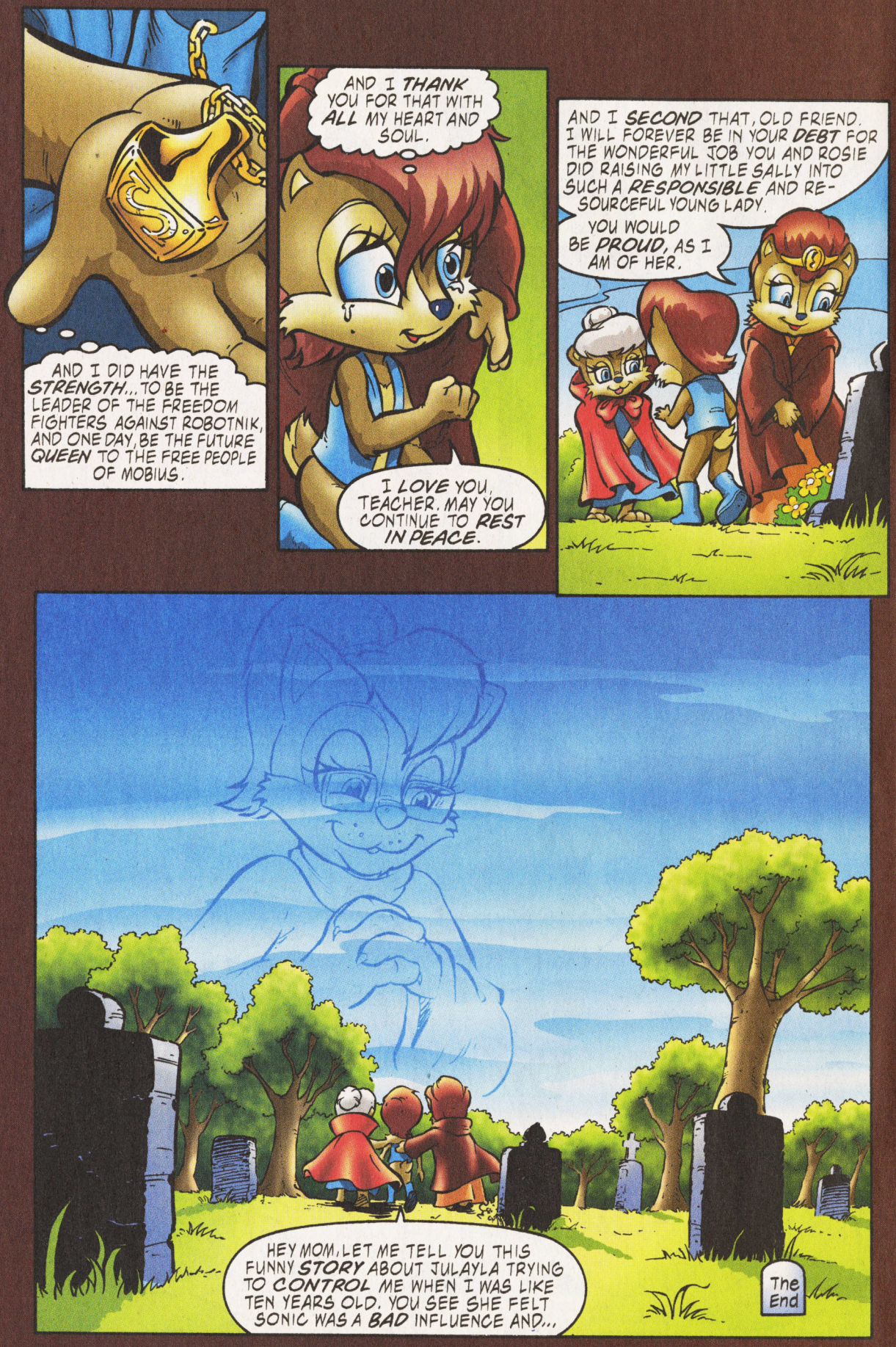

HOLD TIGHT, MIGHTY!
VEC, LET 'ER RIP!
AND AWAY WE GOOOOO--!
JUMP!
WHAT KNUX DIDN'T SAY WAS THIS WAS VEC'S FIRST CRACK AT BEING A PILOT!
WE SURVIVED THE FLIGHT BACK, BUT THE GYRO WAS A GONER!
SO, THAT'S HOW YOU TWO MET!
DID YOU EVER FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR FAMILY?
NOT REALLY! MAYBE SOMEDAY I WILL!
IN THE MEANTIME, I MAY HAVE LOST KNUX--
--BUT I STILL HAVE YOU AND THE REST OF THE GUYS!
NEXT:
VECTOR SPEAKS HIS PIECE!

The Royal Signet
writer Romy Chacon pencils Art Mawhinney
inker Pam Eklund letterer J. Powell
colorist Jensen editor J. E. Gabrie
JUST LOOK AT HER. I'M SO GLAD WE COULD HAVE THESE TIMES TOGETHER.
WE MISSED SO MUCH SINCE SHE WAS TAKEN FROM ME WHEN I WAS AN INFANT.
SALLY, TAKE A GANDER AT THIS. WHAT A BEAUTIFUL TULIP, DON'T YOU THINK?
FEATURING: PRINCESS Sally
IF ANTOINE WERE HERE HE'D SAY, "ZANK YOU, MY QUEEN, BUT I ZINK MY UPPER LIP IS A LITTLE MORE ESSS-TINQUISHED OF MY TWO LIPS, NON?"
HAHAHAHA... THAT'S SO AMUSING.
BRRR... I KNEW I SHOULD HAVE WORN SOMETHING MORE.
HEY MOM, LET ME GIVE YOU MY VEST TO WEAR.
BUT...
NO BUTS. YOU JUST GOT OVER A COLD. I'D PREFER YOU NOT CATCH IT AGAIN.


OH, I FELT SOMETHING HEAVY INSIDE THE POCKET--
IT'S...IT'S THE ROYAL SIGNET!
I HAD THIS RING MADE AFTER YOUR BIRTH AND GAVE IT TO JULAYLA, YOUR FUTURE INSTRUCTOR FOR SAFE-KEEPING BEFORE MY SUPPOSED DEATH.
AFTER MY RETURN, I NEVER SAW IT ON YOUR FINGER I ASSUMED YOU NEVER RECEIVED IT.
WHY DO YOU NOT WEAR IT? DO YOU NOT THINK IT SPECIAL ENOUGH?
OF COURSE I DO, MOM. THAT'S WHY I KEEP IT CHAINED TO THE INSIDE OF MY VEST. I DIDN'T WANT LOSE IT DURING ONE OF MY MISSIONS. JULAYLA WOULD HAVE--
OH MY GOSH! HOW COULD I BE SO FORGETFUL...?
HI, ROSIE. AM I TOO LATE?
I KNEW YOU WOULD COME SOONER OR LATER, SO I DECIDED TO WAIT.

OH, ROSIE. I HAVE TO ADMIT I ALMOST FORGOT THAT TODAY WAS JULAYLA'S BIRTHDAY.
BUT YOU DIDN'T, SALLY DEAR. THAT'S WHAT COUNTS.
MY QUEEN. FORGIVE MY RUDENESS FOR NOT GREETING YOU IN THE PROPER MANNER
ROSIE, THERE IS NO NEED FOR FORMALITIES. AFTER ALL THE YEARS TAKING CARE OF SALLY FOR ME I CONSIDER YOU FAMILY.
OH, THANK YOU, YOUR HIGHNESS.
CALL ME ALICIA. I INSIST.
THANK YOU... ALICIA.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JULAYLA. I WISH YOU WERE HERE WITH US TO CELEBRATE IT IN PERSON.
JULAYLA
YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN OVERJOYED TO KNOW MY MOM WAS ALIVE AND WELL.
BUT AT THE TIME, YOU THOUGHT YOU WOULD BE JOINING HER...
"...YOU TESTED ME AND GAVE ME GUIDANCE FOR THE LAST TIME..."
"...AND THEN I WAS ALONE, SO ALONE..."
"...BUT THE RING YOU GAVE ME, HANDED DOWN BY MY MOTHER, TOLD ME I HAD THE STRENGTH TO GO ON."


AND I DID HAVE THE STRENGTH... TO BE THE LEADER OF THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS AGAINST ROBOTNIK, AND ONE DAY, BE THE FUTURE QUEEN TO THE FREE PEOPLE OF MOBIUS.
AND I THANK YOU FOR THAT WITH ALL MY HEART AND SOUL.
I LOVE YOU, TEACHER. MAY YOU CONTINUE TO REST IN PEACE.
AND I SECOND THAT, OLD FRIEND. I WILL FOREVER BE IN YOUR DEBT FOR THE WONDERFUL JOB YOU AND ROSIE DID RAISING MY LITTLE SALLY INTO SUCH A RESPONSIBLE AND RESOURCEFUL YOUNG LADY.
YOU WOULD BE PROUD, AS I AM OF HER.
HEY MOM, LET ME TELL YOU THIS FUNNY STORY ABOUT JULAYLA TRYING TO CONTROL ME WHEN I WAS LIKE TEN YEARS OLD. YOU SEE SHE FELT SONIC WAS A BAD INFLUENCE AND...
The End